

REMARKS

This amendment is offered in response to the Office Action of May 10, 2004 and is being filed with an RCE.

At the outset, Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy and helpfulness shown in the interviews of April 20, 2004 and July 15, 2004.

The Office Action rejected Claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by the Tsukamoto reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,668,641) and rejected Claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over the Tsukamoto reference in view of the Beaudet reference (U.S. patent No. 6,469,795).

Claim 18 has been amended, *inter alia*, to recite:

predicting means for predicting at least one of a remaining time duration required for completing the print operations and a completion time at which the print operations for the print data are completed, based on multiplying said elapsed time by said total raster number and dividing by said printed raster number.

It is respectfully submitted that this is not disclosed or suggested by the cited references.

As discussed in the interview of July 15, 2004, support for this language is found on page 16, lines 18 et seq.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claims 18 and 19 are patentable over the cited prior art.

For all of the reasons above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending

claims are in immediate condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections of the claims, to allow the claims, and to pass this application to early issue.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald Levy", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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